

generally, about the taking of marine mammals in ways that are inconsistent with sound conservation practices.

Second, I have instructed the Department of Commerce, in implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act, to withhold consideration of any Canadian requests for waivers to the existing moratorium on the importation of seals and/or seal products into the United States.

Finally, the United States will continue to urge Canada to reconsider its unilateral decision to authorize whaling on endangered stocks and to authorize whaling outside the IWC.

I believe the foregoing measures are more appropriate in addressing the problem of Canadian whaling than the imposition of import prohibitions at this time.

I have asked the Departments of Commerce and State to keep this situation under close review.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
February 10, 1997.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 11.

### **Message to the Congress Reporting Budget Rescissions and Deferrals**

*February 10, 1997*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I herewith report nine proposed rescissions of budgetary resources, totaling \$397 million, and one revised deferral, totaling \$7 million.

The proposed rescissions affect the Departments of Agriculture, Defense-Military, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, and Justice, and the General Services Administration. The deferral affects the Social Security Administration.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
February 10, 1997.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 11.

### **Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Cosponsors of Campaign Finance Reform Legislation and an Exchange With Reporters**

*February 11, 1997*

**The President.** In the State of the Union Address I asked the Congress to pass bipartisan campaign finance reform by July the Fourth, and I pointed out that delay would mean the death of reform, as it has in the last several years. I am very pleased to welcome to the White House today this bipartisan group of House Members who are now all cosponsors of the Shays-Meehan legislation. They are coming together in a bipartisan way to limit the influence of money in our campaigns for Congress and in financing the political parties and to level the playing field.

And I feel very, very strongly that they have done a good thing for our country. I am supporting their efforts very strongly, and I want to do whatever I can to work with them to help this legislation pass.

As soon as I leave here I'm going up to the Hill to a meeting of the bipartisan leadership of Congress, to which the Speaker and Senator Lott invited me after the State of the Union. And this is one of the issues I intend to raise there. I'm very encouraged by what I've heard here today, and we're determined to go forward.

Mr. Vice President.

[At this point, the Vice President, Representative Chris Shays, and Representative Marty Meehan made brief remarks.]

**The President.** Thank you all.

**Q.** Isn't this blocking the barn after the horse has gone?

**The President.** No. How can you say that? There will be a whole set of new elections up. There are elections in '98; there are elections in 2000; there are elections in 2002. I hope there will be elections 200 years from now.

**Q.** Is this all a product of lessons learned from the last campaign?

**The President.** No. Most of these people have wanted to do this for many years. Keep in mind, we had—in each of the last 4 years